



To: Members, Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations

From: Representative Mike Huebsch

Date: March 5, 2008

Re: Assembly Bill 875 – Certification of Candidates for President and Vice President of the United States

Thank you for taking up Assembly Bill 875 and for the opportunity to provide comments. I apologize for not attending the hearing personally, but the Assembly is in session today and my presence is required there.

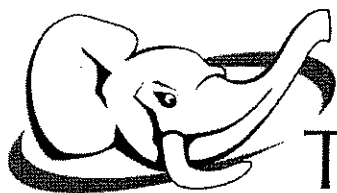
Under Wisconsin law, the state political parties must certify the names of their candidates for President and Vice President of the United States to the Government Accountability Board (GAB) on the first Tuesday in September so that they may appear on the primary ballot. This year's deadline for certification is September 2, 2008. The one-time extension of this deadline to Friday, September 5, 2008 in AB 875 is necessary due to the lateness of the Republican National Convention.

The Republican Convention will take place September 1-4, with the nomination of the candidates for president and vice president likely occurring on September 3. AB 875 will allow the formal nominating process to conclude prior to submitting the names to the GAB. This issue is somewhat unique to Wisconsin because we are one of only a few states with a September primary.

For these reasons, I urge your support of AB 875 and the one-time extension it provides. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Serving The Coulee Region's 94th Assembly District

P.O. Box 8952, State Capitol • Madison, WI 53708-8952 • Telephone: 608-266-3387 • Toll-Free: 888-534-0094
E-mail: Rep.Huebsch@legis.wi.gov



The Republican Party of Wisconsin

Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations

March 5, 2008

Statement in Support of AB 875

Reince Priebus, Chairman

Republican Party of Wisconsin

Reince Priebus
Chairman

Mark Jefferson
Executive Director

148 E. Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53703
p 608.257.4765
f 608.257.4141

www.wisgop.org
gop@wisgop.org

Chairman Risser and members of the Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations, thank you for holding a hearing today on AB 875.

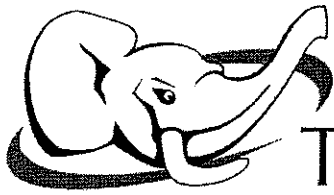
AB 875 is intended to be a narrowly drafted, straight forward bill to allow the Republican Party three additional days to submit the name of our nominees for president and vice president to the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board in accordance with state law. This will allow the Party to submit those names after the national convention this year, which is being held in the Twin Cities from Sept 1-4.

Current law states that our State Chairman must certify the names of the Republican nominees to the Government Accountability Board by 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday in September, 2008—in this case September 2. However, due to the unusually late 2008 Republican National Convention, our delegates won't have a chance to vote on the Republican nominees until after the state's deadline. The nominees for president and vice-president are likely to be officially declared at the convention on the nights of September 3rd and 4th.

In order to avoid a timing conflict with the 2008 summer Olympics being held in August, the Democratic National Committee plans to hold their national convention before the Olympics in early August leaving the Republican National Committee to hold our national convention after the Olympics in early September.

With Wisconsin's fall primaries not being held until later in September, an argument could be made to allow all political parties to wait until the September primaries to submit the names of their nominees to the Government Accountability Board. However, in the interests of expediency, this bill was drafted narrowly to ensure a smooth process in 2008. To prevent this unique situation from occurring again, the legislature may at some time wish to make a permanent change.

While the Republican Party does have a presumptive nominee, the importance of a presidential election requires that we follow an appropriate process. Submitting names of candidates before they were to become official nominees of their Party would seem an irresponsible approach to the Presidential election process.



The Republican Party of Wisconsin

The Republican Party of Wisconsin faces a unique situation this year. Of course, in another year the Democratic Party could have a similar concern. Thank you for your efforts to set a precedent of cooperation on this matter.

Once again, thank you Chairman Risser and members for your consideration of AB 875.